

# CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b> LUL # 8482 Deep Creek Ranch and Management Co., LLC	<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b> February 1, 2005
<b>Proponent:</b> Deep Creek Ranch and Management Co., LLC, PO Box 1200, Choteau, MT 466-2057	
<b>Type and Purpose of Action:</b> Deep Creek Ranch has applied for a LUL to use an existing road that crosses a ¼ mile of state land. The existing road will be used to access fishing ponds and buildings located on private land.	
<b>Location:</b> NW¼SW¼, Sec 28, T24N, R7W	<b>County:</b> Teton

## I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	None
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	There are no other agencies with jurisdiction on this project.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Approve the LUL.  No action. Do not approve the LUL.

## II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS  N = Not Present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] Soils and geology in this area are suitable for road use. The applicant will use an existing road and no new road construction will occur. Cumulative impacts on soil resources are not expected.
5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The proposed action is not expected to impact water quality, quantity, or distribution in the area
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The proposed action will not impact air quality.
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The existing road traverses CRP ground. An existing road will be used and no new road construction will occur. Existing vegetation will not be disturbed.

<b>II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] No long-term negative affects on existing wildlife species and/or wildlife habitat are expected.
9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] This parcel is located in the NCD grizzly bear recovery zone. The proposal is to use an existing road. Threatened or endangered species, sensitive habitat types, or other species of special concern associated will not be impacted.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] No cultural resources were found within the project area. Cultural resources will not be impacted by this proposed project.
11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The proposed action not change the aesthetics of the landscape.
12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The demand on environmental resources such as land, water, air, or energy will not be affected by the proposed action. The proposed action will not consume resources that are limited in the area. There are no other projects in the area that will affect the proposed project.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of other private, state or federal current actions w/n the analysis area, or from future proposed state actions that are under MEPA review (scoping) or permitting review by any state agency w/n the analysis area?	[N] Currently, there are no other studies, plans, or projects associated with the proposed project area.

<b>III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</b>	
<b>RESOURCE</b>	<b>[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES</b>
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[Y] The proposed LUL will not impact human health or safety.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[N] The applicant will use an existing road and associated agricultural activities on this lease will not be affected.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] The proposed action will not create jobs.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] The proposed action will not add to tax revenue.
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] This project will not add demand for government services.
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] The proposed action is in compliance with State and County laws. No other management plans are in effect for the area.
20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas	[N] This tract of state land has generally high recreational value

<p>nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>for upland bird hunting and access to fishing ponds. This state land tract is isolated and not legally accessible to the public. The proposed action is not expected to impact general recreational activities on this state land.</p>
<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[N] The proposed action will not change the human population distribution or the housing requirements in the area.</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>[N] The proposed action will not alter the social structure of surrounding native communities.</p>
<p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p>[N] The proposed action will not impact the cultural uniqueness and/or the cultural diversity of the area.</p>
<p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES: Is there a potential for other future uses for easement area other than for current management? Is future use hypothetical? What is the estimated return to the trust. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[Y] Deep Creek Ranch and Management Co, LLC will pay a \$250.00 annual for this LUL.</p>

EA Checklist Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Erik Eneboe

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Conrad Unit Manager - CLO  
Title

Date: February 4, 2005

<b>IV. FINDING</b>
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25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Issue LUL

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

Significant impacts are not anticipated. The proposed use is for an existing road on which the lessee has implied authorization for management uses for purposes other than recreational. The additional use associated with private recreational activities is not anticipated to be substantial.

27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis:

☐ EIS      ☐ More Detailed EA      ☒ No Further Analysis

[ ] EIS

[ ] More Detailed EA

[ X ] No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:

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Garry Williams

Area Manager - CLO

Name

Title

Signature	Date
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Date